

[For the Louisville Courier.]

REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR

PRISON LIFE AT ROCK ISLAND
BY E. P. J., CO. B, 1ST KY. CAVALRY, C. S.
No. 3.
THE STARVATION POLICY.
After the inauguration in full of the station policy, and its direful effects were becoming painfully evident in the shrunken and painful step, more or less character-

ered as in a suitable state to receive overt
from the United States Government, wh
soon came in the shape of an offer to enli
the frontier service of the United States,
thereby brand our names forever with
infamy of desertion. This proposition was
this effect: the men who so far forget th
duly as to enlist under a flag at war with
own were to receive on enlistment a bonu
of one hundred dollars if they enlist for
year and half hundred if for three years.

I regret to say that many look advantageously upon this opportunity to get out of prison, and once more get plenty to eat; but the great part of them were foreigners, and a great many disabled men, not fit for service, were allowed to go free on being released by the examining surgeon. During the war, that the equipment was unimportant.

the post office drove three or four times a day through the whole length of the prison, with his wagon laden with every delicacy that he could desire, which he was selling to the disgraced wretches who had joined the United States service, and thus by exciting the appetite of the starving inmates of the prison they hoped to win many recruits, which unluckily for us, was a complete success. I have seen two poor fellows follow a wagon with longing eyes to the entrance of a pen where the recruits were kept, and

The officers of the post were heard to be that they had stirred in a thousand and tended to get all they wanted in the so way. Too true was the boast, for they succeed in enlisting over fifteen hundred as to the prison; but we were thankful of this in regard to the outfitment; it left us who could all be trusted, for the gang, spies and informers had gone over to the enemy. Of this class, I regret to say there was quite a number in each prison.

It was thought by many that after the emulating ceased our rations would be made sufficient to sustain us. Vain, delusive hope, that lessened no man's hunger, for he starved us to make us enlist, and starved because we did so.

Another mode of punishment was to place a man against the fence, standing tip-toe on a four-inch block, while a string attached to his thumbs was intended to a wall as far above his head as he could reach. This

I must not forget our long-eared and "Sturgeon's snail," who came in every day to his share of the amusement. This snail had a narrow scantling on post, five or six inches high, with a saddle in the center made of plank trimmed very sharp in the edge, and

who often rode the mule, manufacturer bought pair of wooden spurs which he put on as he went to mount for his morning ride. The officer in charge seeing this, became enraged and fastened a ball and chain to leg and thus the poor fellow remained there, suffering the most intense pain, until he died of *spurs*.

Where punishment was to last for several weeks, the ball and chain was used, and the men who attempted to escape, wore one each leg for a month. The ball weighed thirty-two pounds. A very nice pair of

I have given some idea, I hope, in respect to our treatment at this post and my last over. Although I could enumerate a mass of revolting cases of cruelty, I will desist. I have given a fair account of scenes that have opened under my own observation, and I vouch for the correctness of those sketches while many in Kentucky will substantiate my statements.

PERSONALITIES.

If any of the post officers, such as Co.

feel that I have done them injustice, I would like to say that I have, for my pen is weak to do justice to the men who have done the greater part of them were dealing with such appendages. I must pay my respects to Capt. Lawrence for the very economical manner in which he handled the commissary department. I feel sure that the war which

Lieut. James F. Layton was a spinster, took splendid care of our money. Would respectfully recommend him to student Johnson as McCulloch's successor.

To Lieut. "Jim Craek" of the "Greys," I can only say that if he is handed his checks to the devil, it is sincere wish of the survivors of R-ck that he may do so at an early day. should see this tender testimonial of regard, I hope he will duly appreciate cause.

I have given a pen sketch of prison life, and I am aware, but still confident, that the stubborn facts, with stern witnesses, prisoners' graves at K. K. Island—and the insistent howling Puritans of the North—will witness the work of their lawless hands. Go see the thousands of graves with the flower of the sons of the South, mowed by Yankee hands, in the name of the Union." The curse of Cain and the iniquitous blasphemy! Ask the General Grant, whose orders dug graves, and he dare not answer for Re-

After the recruiting was over we lived the same old monotonous life, always here and there.

About this time strenuous efforts were made by many to effect their escape, by different modes, very few of which were successful. To the contrary, the man attempting to escape more often met his death at the hands of some watchful guard, but in a few instances they succeeded.

During the time I was there I do not think that more than three men escaped. The repeated attempts at escape brought more rigid regulations, and "taps" no man was allowed outside his quarters with any clothing on except his

the snaks with clothing thin enough
hot, estimate, and this, too, when the
cury in the thermometer had fallen a
one could not find it. Of course we
this. Flitting "an diabble!" thro
delightful avenues of that delectable
Rock Island, halting every step to an
challenge of some cursed negro gas
inform him where we were going, wh
tor, how long, &c.

THE DISEASES CONTRACTED.

The negroes were greatly afflicted with

this time from being fed on pickled horse manure. The men of the 10th Cavalry, who were in place of Irish beef as formerly, and the Germans made tearful havoc among the British, killing quite a number—while all this was a deadly thing from the effects of the gas, which owing to the kind of rations we were using, was of the most virulent kind. I gave the surgeons their due, and saw that they did all they could to stop the ravages of the disease, which having once entered the lungs was almost sure to result serious stiffening the joints. They raised people who were twice to those afflicted with the

Would that all the officers who were on duty at our post could have been present, as hearty as the majority of the surgeons, for they seemed to have some of the human kindness about them, and members of the kind acts of Drs. McClellan and Brooks, who particularly exerted themselves for our welfare when sick. Our camp had by this time become a seclusion outside the prison, and many of the white at the hospital were under the care of the physicians alone, generally spoken of as the treatment there. It was the

ABOUT THE RATIONS.

I have only spoken of drawing our rations once per day, and will now give some details, etc.

Each day, about ten o'clock, the bread came in and was used bread to the commissary sergeants, who in turn gave it to the men. On Saturday we drew our day's rations so as to allow Sunday to rest, and we generally made it a day's fasting too, for as sure as we draw

U.S. quickly return. Times, Register, the late service General ago at

and
y, in 11
only 13
and 22

shutdown, when the gate was thro
and the long looked for gray horses m
appearance, bringing in bread. Le
chivers rent the air, and "bread" was
on every side. Before a half hour ha

1000, out for my interest, that we can
of government as Radicals manage
make money, I'll follow suit and see
from your great hand holding a swindle
"REPUDIATION."

